

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

This document invention relates to a branching device (1, 25) for at least one electric line. The branching device exhibits branching contacts and a housing (2) in which at least one electrically conducting wire terminal (11) is accommodated in a holder (10, 26). The device is characterized characterized in that contact lips (44, 46) with cutting edges (48) for cutting through the insulation (25) of the wires (50) of the electric line are provided on the wire terminals (11), in that the wire terminals (11) represent the branching contacts and in that a through-channel (47) for the uninterrupted passage of a wire (50) is provided in each wire terminal (11).